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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**  
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9 Jason Crews,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 Bankers Life Advisory Services  
13 Incorporated, et al.,

14 Defendants.

No. CV-23-02658-PHX-SMB

**ORDER**

15 This matter having recently come before this Court, the parties are advised of the  
16 following preliminary policies and procedures that will govern these proceedings, and are  
17 ordered as follows.

18 **Governing Rules**

19 Both counsel and *pro se* litigants must abide by the Local Rules of Civil Procedure  
20 (“LRCiv” or “Local Rules”), Rules of Practice of the U.S. District Court for the District of  
21 Arizona, and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

22 **Case Management Conference**

23 The Court will schedule a case management conference in accordance with Rule 16  
24 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure once Defendants have been served or have appeared  
25 in the actions. As will be directed in the order setting the conference, the parties will be  
26 required to engage in a Rule 26(f) meeting and submit a Joint Rule 26(f) Case Management  
27 Report. Outstanding motions or requests to continue the Case Management Conference  
28 will not excuse the requirement to hold a Rule 26(f) meeting or submit the joint filing.

1 The Court will issue a Case Management Order following the date of the scheduled  
2 conference. The Order will reflect the parties' input and the Court's considered assessment  
3 of the time necessary to complete discovery and all pretrial submissions, and will set forth  
4 additional policies and procedures that will apply in this case.

### 5 **Rule 12 Motions**

6 Any motion made pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12 is discouraged if  
7 the challenged defect in the pleading can be cured by filing an amended pleading. In  
8 accordance with LRCiv 12.1(c), the Court therefore requires: (1) *conferral* – the movant  
9 must confer with the opposing party prior to filing a motion to dismiss for failure to state  
10 a claim or counterclaim pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6), or a motion for judgment on the  
11 pleadings on a claim or counterclaim pursuant to Rule 12(c), to determine whether such  
12 motion can be avoided; and (2) *certification* – the movant must attach a certificate of  
13 conferral, certifying that it notified the opposing party of the issues asserted in its motion  
14 (in person, by telephone, or in writing), and that the parties conferred but were unable to  
15 agree that the pleading was curable in any part by a permissible amendment offered by the  
16 pleading party. Any motion lacking an attached compliant certificate may be summarily  
17 stricken by the Court.

### 18 **Amendment to the Pleadings**

19 Parties shall endeavor not to oppose motions to amend that are filed prior to any  
20 Rule 16 Case Management Conference or the deadline set forth by any Rule 16 Case  
21 Management Order. Any motion for leave to amend or notice of amendment must be filed  
22 in accordance with Rule 15.1 of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure. Any motion or notice  
23 that does not comply with the local and federal rules may be stricken by the Court.

### 24 **Protective Orders**

25 As a general practice, this Court does not approve or adopt blanket, umbrella  
26 protective orders or confidentiality agreements, even when stipulated to by the parties.  
27 Further, the fact that the parties have designated materials or information as confidential  
28 pursuant to an agreement or stipulation does not mean that the Court will order that the

1 filings containing such information be placed under seal. In the event discovery mandates  
2 disclosure of specific, harmful confidential material, the Court will entertain a request for  
3 a protective order at that time if it is tailored to protect the particular interests at hand in  
4 accordance with Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Any party wishing to  
5 seal a record or document and shield it from public view must prove why the interest in  
6 secrecy outweighs the presumption of public access to judicial records and documents.

### 7 **Corporate Statement**

8 If applicable, full compliance with Rule 7.1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure  
9 is required. A Corporate Disclosure Statement form is available on the District Court's  
10 Website.

### 11 **Filings**

12 All electronic filings must be filed in a PDF text searchable format in accordance  
13 with LRCiv 7.1(c). A paper copy of any document filed exceeding ten (10) pages in length  
14 must be submitted to chambers. Documents which are too large for stapling must be  
15 submitted in a three-ring binder. Electronic copies of proposed orders must be emailed in  
16 Microsoft Word format to [Brnovich\\_Chambers@azd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Brnovich_Chambers@azd.uscourts.gov).

### 17 **Communications with the Court**

18 As a general matter, all communications with the Court regarding any case must be  
19 made on the record. Telephone calls regarding routine administrative matters in civil cases  
20 may be directed to chambers at (602) 322-7540. No member of chambers staff will provide  
21 the parties with legal advice concerning any matter.

22 Any inquiry regarding the status of any motion or other matter that has been under  
23 advisement for more than one hundred and eighty (180) days must be filed in the manner  
24 set forth in LRCiv 7.2(n).

### 25 **Emergencies and Expedited Consideration**

26 Any party desiring expedited consideration of a motion or other matter pending  
27 before the Court may make such a request by filing a separate *Notice for Expedited*  
28 *Consideration* which sets forth the grounds warranting accelerated resolution of the related

1 filing and identifies the dates of the imminent events pertinent to the request. Such requests  
 2 should not be made as a matter of course nor should be made by merely noting it below the  
 3 title of the related filing. Requests presented to the Court in this manner will not be  
 4 considered.

### 5 **Oral Arguments and Evidentiary Hearings**

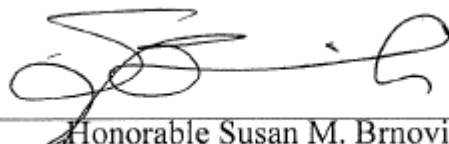
6 This Court does not have a preset schedule for setting oral arguments and  
 7 evidentiary hearings. The Court will schedule oral arguments and evidentiary hearings  
 8 when warranted and advise the parties accordingly. Any party desiring oral argument may  
 9 request it by noting it below the title of the related filing, *see* LRCiv 7.2(f); such request  
 10 should be made in instances where it would assist the resolution of the motion, and not be  
 11 made merely as a matter of course. Any party desiring an evidentiary hearing should  
 12 request it in the body of its filing. Separate motions or requests for oral argument or  
 13 evidentiary hearings are subject to being stricken or may be modified on the docket to a  
 14 notice.

### 15 **Noncompliance**

16 The parties are specifically admonished that failure to prosecute, to comply with  
 17 court orders, or to comply with the local and federal rules may result in dismissal of all or  
 18 part of this case, default, imposition of sanctions, or summary disposition of matters  
 19 pending before the Court. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 41; LRCiv 7.2 (“[i]f a motion does not  
 20 conform in all substantial respects with the requirements of [the Local Rules], or if the  
 21 opposing party does not serve and file the required answering memoranda... such  
 22 noncompliance may be deemed a consent to the denial or granting of the motion and the  
 23 Court may dispose of the motion summarily”).

24 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Plaintiff(s) must promptly serve a copy of  
 25 this Order on Defendant(s) and file notice of service with the Clerk of Court.

26 Dated this 27th day of December, 2023.

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 28   
 Honorable Susan M. Brnovich  
 United States District Judge